THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) AICTE has been continuosly taking up steps towards improvement of standards in the Engineering colleges/institutes. AICTE already has several schemes and programmes under which assistance is made available to engineering colleges, including those located in rural areas, for improving their standards and quality of teaching staff. Some of steps are such as Early Faculty Induction Programme, Emeritus Fellowship Scheme, Visiting Professorship Scheme, Career Awards for Young Teachers Scheme, Seminar/Travel Grant for Faculty development, Industry Institution Partnership Facilitation Cell, Research Promotion Scheme, Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence Scheme, Indian National Digital Liabary in Engineering, Science and Technology Programme for research and institutional development. However, mandates and budgetary resources of UGC and AICTE are quite distinct.

UGC Research Scientist Schemes

2791. SHRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a four members C.N. Rao Committee to work out the introduction of the UGC Research Scientist Scheme;

(b) whether this Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) the extent to which UGC failed in creating a Scientific Hub in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed to encourage talented students to enter the science stream?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Committee *interalia* include continuation of Scientists working under the Research Scientists Scheme of the University Grants Commission (UGC), creation of supernumerary positions to absorb the scientists wherever possible, to accommodate the Scientists in Central institutions as far as possible and to discontinue further recruitment under the Scheme.

(d) and (e) GGC has been making continuous efforts to encourage, scientific research in Universities/Colleges by way of introduction of various schemes like the Junior Research Fellow, Research Award.